

FINAL
MARTIN PTA MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm with Mary Beth Dufresne, Amy Watson, Kate Colavecchio, Susan Skoog, Brittany Covill, Michelle Balthazar, Kim Mercier, Alison Eagleson, Tracy Axiak, Rose Mauriello, Sherry Norris, Diane Chappell, Amanda Lythgoe and Amanda Ramsey in attendance.

HOT School Update and Next Steps: Tracy Pietkevich and Lauren Eichenauer gave a description of how Reader's Notebook fits into Reader's Workshop for fourth and fifth graders by a visual presentation. They described the format, schedule, expectations and what the students will learn from this workshop.

Christina Prindle gave a HOT School update on the artist in residence, what students benefit from this program, what the teachers learn in their training sessions and how art is integrated into the curriculum.

Amanda Ramsey spoke about the fine arts budget which has \$2500. In the past, three artists came to the school every year to work with certain grades. This format could change if we used one artist in residence for the whole school such as the CT State Troubadour, Chuck Costa. He would work in the school for one week for about four hours a day and work with as many grade levels as possible. Amanda wanted the PTA to think about this as a possibility.

Minutes from November were reviewed and approved.

President's Report: Sue Skoog stepped in this evening to run the PTA meeting. She stated that Shirley Kociu has stepped down from the PTA board as president. The PTA Board is looking for a new president. There will be an additional meeting scheduled for December 11.

Vice President's Report: Michelle Balthazar said that there were 82 members so far this year including staff and families.

Treasurer's Report: Brittany Covill stated that the following items noted in green were amended to the budget: Clint Charter for \$650.00; Fifth Grade Class at \$10 per child; Hoagland Scholarship Fund at \$200.00; and PTA Banner for \$56.00. The amended items were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

Seasonal Sharing: Amanda Lythgoe said that last year was a great success and the school is in the process of assessing how many families will be helped this year.

October 24th PTA Town Wide Meeting Recap: Brittany Covill attended the meeting that was held at Highland Park School. The Town Wide PTA Science Fair will be held on Saturday, December 15th at Illing Middle School from 9am-1pm. The theme for this year's Reflections Art Contest is magic of a moment.

Big Y: Mary Beth Dufresne stated that Martin School has 16,800 points so far with 65 people participating. The program will be going until January 1, 2014.

Reflections Art Contest: will be starting soon and information will be sent out.

Parents' Night Out: will be held on Friday, November 30 with door opening at 6:45pm and the program starting at 7pm with Atwater Martial Arts. The cost for the evening is \$15 per child with a family maximum of \$30. A registration form will be sent out this week.

Book Fair: Lisa Plavin is coordinating this event and is in need of volunteers so if you can help, please contact her. It will run from December 3-7.

Gingerbread House Fundraiser: is happening on Friday, December 7 with 2 seatings at 6pm and 7:30pm. Registration had been extended until today.

Variety Show: will be held on Friday, February 22nd. Kindergarten needs someone to coordinate their act.

Poinsettia Fundraiser: The PTA is looking into selling poinsettias in December.

Old Business:

Lyman Orchard: Rose Mauriello said that delivery is tomorrow after school from 3:25pm-5pm. The fundraiser made \$916.00 for the fifth grade. She mentioned that John Garaventa is having a Martin School Family Portrait Special. Book your family portrait from November 2-December 2 and receive \$50.00 off the regular sitting fee and 15% of any purchases will be donated to the fifth grade class. She also hoped that the board will increase the PTA donation to the fifth grade class.

Halloween Party: was a great success and made \$887.00.

Original Works: Mary Beth Dufresne stated 49 students participated grossing \$1,197.00.

Martin Mile: Shirley Kociu was not present to talk about this event.

Movie Night in November: is scheduled for November 16 with doors opening at 6:30pm. The movie chosen was "Madagascar 3" which will start at 7pm. Suggested donation of \$1 and food and beverages will be \$1.

Kate Colavecchio's Report: Information regarding parent/teacher conferences will be going out this week. There will be revised report cards this year. Manchester is an Alliance District and received money for a tutor for the town's neediest students in reading. Amy Rowe will be Martin's tutor. Mrs. Starr is on medical leave but will be returning after Thanksgiving. The Room Parent Coffee will be held tomorrow morning at 9:30am. Class lists will be handed out with new guidelines and confidentiality. The desserts that the teachers enjoyed on Election Day were delicious and a thank you to Amy Watson. Ms. Bill thanks the PTA for the books for the summer reading program. Amy Watson spoke to PBIS as she is a parent member. There was a meeting last week and the staff is great because they listen to ideas about how to recognize good students possibly at town meetings where it is kept simple. Maybe the school could incorporate the school song into PBIS. Mrs. Colavecchio stated that on December 13, the school will hold a community event for parents and students with more information forthcoming.

Open Discussion: Rose Mauriello felt that the students sitting on the floor at town meetings was unhygienic. It was explained that the chairs needed to be tied together per fire code so it was easier for the students to sit on the floor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.